(*c*) The information is not available. The contract prices for delivery for 1097 are:

Bombay salt.

Alleppey. 9 as.-3 9/25 pies per *maund.*

Tinnevelly salt.

Alleppey. 10 as.-7 5/7 pies per *maund.*

Quilon 8 as.-3 pies per *maund.*

(*d*) The Munambam Depot is intended to serve the taluks of the Alwaye Circle and the accommodation there is not sufficient to stock more salt.

(*e*) Generally it is of the same quality as the sample contracted for. In cases where the supply is not quite up to the sample, but is not unfit for consumption, a reduction is made in the contract rates.

(*f*) The two kinds of salt are sold in a fixed proportion in view to the disposal of both the kinds.

MR. M. R MADHAVA VARIAR: With reference to the answer to part (*a*), may I ask if it is not possible to stock Bombay salt at Quilon?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: No.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Can it not be supplied?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: With a view to increase the supply of local salt, the policy of Government is to restrict the importation of Bombay salt as far as possible, and so, gradually, when the supply of local salt increases, it will be necessary to supply larger and larger quantities of local salt at Quilon. At present, it is not deemed necessary to continue the supply of Bombay salt at Quilon.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: With reference to answer (*b*), why do Government prefer Bombay salt to Tinnevelly or local salt in their advertisement for the supply of salt to the Caste Hindu Hostel and other institutions?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: I am not aware. I shall enquire.

Free Passes for the removal of Timber and Firewood.

120. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that representations have been made on several occasions in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that the present rules regarding the grant of free passes for the removal of timber and fuel from private lands cause much hardship to the people?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what their intention is in insisting that a plan and certificate should accompany every application for a free pass for the removal of timber and fuel from registered lands in rural parts, near which there are no Sirkar lands?

(*c*) Has it been brought to the notice of Government that the parties concerned experience much difficulty and incur much loss in getting plans and certificates from the Proverticars?

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

(*d*) With a view to allow the *Ayacut* land-holders full liberty to use the timber and fuel on their lands, will the Government be pleased to locate the departmental watch-stations at places nearest to the Sirkar forests and to issue free passes only for the timber and fuel transported through such stations?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The whole question is at present under the examination of Government. A committee will be constituted to go into the question.

Passes for the Transport of Timber.

121. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: (*a*) Are the Government aware that much difficulty is experienced by private land-owners in getting passes from the Forest Department for the removal of timber from their holdings?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to discontinue this system or will they be at least pleased to authorise the Tahsildars of the taluks concerned to issue such passes as in the case of bamboos?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The member is referred to the answer given to question No. 120.

Lime-shell Monopoly.

122. THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: (1) When the question of leasing the exclusive right of collecting lime-shells from the backwaters was suggested during the late administration, was it not decided that it was undesirable to grant such a lease?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was any special reason for the Government to grant the monopoly now;

(*b*) whether the lime-shells collected from the backwaters are not solely used in this State, and, if not, what portion thereof is exported annually;

(*c*) the amount realised by the lease of the monopoly;

(*d*) the quantity of shells or *chunam* purchased by Government for the use of the P. W. D., the Maramat, and other departments, during the last year, and the average price per standard *para*; and

(*e*) the average price the Government have to pay per standard *para* to the contractor after the lease of the monopoly?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (1) The answer is in the affirmative. The question of leasing the lime-shell beds was dropped at the time because of the objections of the Chief Engineer to the measure as then proposed.

(2) (*a*) No monopoly has been given. Leases with safeguards provided against the objections raised to the previous scheme have now been given.

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